



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## **Taiwan**

### **FAIRS Product Specific**

### **Registration of Health Foods and Health Claims**

## **2003**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

According to Taiwan's "Health Food Control Act," any product which claims to be a health food must receive Department of Health's approval before being marketed. Any food product that is labeled or advertised as providing specific nutrients or health care effects is also governed by this Act.

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Taipei [TW1], TW

**Health Food in Taiwan**

According to Taiwan's Health Food Control Act, "health food" denotes food that is labeled or advertised as providing specific nutrients or health care benefits. The Act does not cover food aimed at treating or remedying human diseases. Health food cannot claim to provide therapeutic effects.

The "Health Food Control Act" was promulgated on February 3, 1999 and amended in January 2002. Any food product which claims to be a health food or carries a "health claim" must receive DOH's approval before being marketed.

**Health Food Registration**

Food in Taiwan is divided into two categories: general food and health food. The importation and manufacture of health foods require prior approval by Taiwan's Department of Health (DOH) for certification. If a general food product is marketed or labeled with a "health claim," it must be registered with the DOH as a health food. The following documentation is required by the DOH to review the registration application and grant approval:

- ingredient lists
- specifications
- health-related functions and effects
- a summary of the manufacturing process
- specifications and methods of analysis
- other relevant data and documentation supporting the health claim
- label and sample
- permit fee
- review and testing fees

Documentation may be submitted in English.

A manufacturing or import license/permit, valid for a five-year period, will be issued for applications meeting the requirements of Taiwan's Health Food Control Act and its related regulations. Applications to extend license validity should be filed three months prior to the expiry date of the licence/permit. The term of each renewal shall not exceed five years. The license/permit will be automatically canceled after the expiry date if no application for extension is made.

**Re-Evaluation**

The DOH may re-evaluate approved health food during the validity of the health food permit for any of the following reasons:

- where scientific research raises doubts about the effects of the product;
- where the ingredients, formula, or method of production of the product is subject to doubt;
- where the re-evaluation is considered necessary by the competent food sanitation authority.

If the health food does not pass re-evaluation, the DOH shall request the company concerned to make appropriate improvements within a prescribed period, and may revoke the permit if the

improvement is not made within that period.

**Labeling**

The following information shall be conspicuously displayed on the containers, packaging or written instructions of health foods in Chinese and using commonly used symbols:

- (1) Product name
- (2) Name, and weight or volume of the contents (if a mixture of two or more components, they must be listed separately)
- (3) Name of food additives
- (4) Expiration date, method and conditions of preservation
- (5) Name and address of the responsible business operator; the name and address of the importer shall be specified if the health food is imported.
- (6) The approved health care effects
- (7) Reference number of the permit, the legend of "health food" and standard logo
- (8) Amount of intake and important messages for the consumption of the health food along with other necessary warnings
- (9) Nutrient and its content
- (10) Other material facts designated by the DOH